

NEWS – CONGRESSMAN PETE STARK

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FLOOR SPEECH BY REP. STARK OPPOSING THE GOP NOCARE BILL

WASHINGTON – Rep. Pete Stark (D-CA), ranking member of the House Ways and Means Health Subcommittee, today delivered the following speech on the House floor opposing the GOP's NoCare bill to repeal the health reform law. For the video, please visit: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N9DQjepHY90>

The text of Rep. Stark's remarks is below.

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"I rise today in strong opposition to repealing health reform. Instead of focusing on job creation, my friends across the aisle want to re-fight the health reform debate and take away patient protections that are already helping people get the health care they need.

"It bears repeating -- health reform is already helping millions of people in America. These aren't just numbers, they are real people.

"In my community, I received a letter from a young woman named Stephanie Blazin from Castro Valley, California. Stephanie recently graduated from college, married and moved to California where her husband is pursuing a graduate degree. She was lucky and quickly got a job. Then, within her first two weeks on the job, she found out she was pregnant. This should have been an exciting time for a young couple to start a family. Instead, she learned that her pregnancy was a pre-existing condition and she'd obtain no coverage for any medical needs surrounding it. She said to me, 'the first thoughts through our minds were tainted by how we were going to financially handle this pregnancy and a baby.'

"Fortunately, because health reform is law and she is under age 26, Stephanie was able to quickly change her health insurance to obtain coverage on her father's health insurance. She now has full coverage for her pregnancy.

"Under the Republicans' plan, Stephanie would be stuck with No Care. That is the Republican plan. By repealing health reform, the GOP plan would provide no protections for people's health.

"NoCare if you lose your job;

"NoCare if you have a pre-existing condition;

"NoCare if you are a senior in the donut hole;

"NoCare if your insurer hikes your premiums and you can't afford them anymore.

"The Affordable Care Act has finally enacted fair rules for insurance companies. The Republicans want to take those protections away and put the insurance industry back in charge. I urge my colleagues to vote no on the Republicans' NoCare bill."

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